A QUEER PEOPLE.

They Live in the Kuriles and Northern Japan.

BY ROMEYN HITCHCOCK.

HE who in distant lands leaves the beaten paths and seeks for adventure or discovery, may often find either nearer than he thinks. The far East is not all unknown, yet it teems with unstudied problems of the deepest interest to those who will but think of them and pass but a few steps beyond the narrow bounds of the foreign settlements.

The small group of islands known as Japan is inhabited by a people of unknown origin. We are content to speak of them as Japanese, and for our present purpose it is not required to know more concerning them. But scattered along the coasts from the north as far as to the extreme southern end of Kinshin, there are found traces of a different people, who must have occupied the country in prehistoric times.

Recent explorations have led to the conclusion that these aborigines are representatives of a race known as Ainos, who are now confined to the island of Yezo, in the north of Japan.

The Ainos are entirely distinct from the Japanese. They are characterized by an extraordinary growth of hair over the limbs and body, long, bushy beards, frowsy, unkempt hair, heavy eyebrows, and fine physique. The writer has been among these people, and the National Museum at Washington now has an exhibit which shows their extremely low grade of culture and intelligence. But the Ainos are not the people now under particular consideration.

Nearly 20 years ago Mr. T. W. Blakiston traveled in Yezo, and here and there observed pits or depressions in the earth, which he surmised might be the vestiges of former dwellings. It is my purpose to show that, as the Ainos have gradually disappeared northward before the Japanese, so, in the more distant past, another race apparently gave way before the Ainos, moving still further northward, to the bleak and cheerless Kuriles.

One object of my northern journey was to discover some tangible evidence of the existence of such a race of aborigines, whose former presence in southern Japan seems to be chronicled in the

TALES OF THE EARLY EMPERORS.

We are now getting so far back of historic records that not much reliance can be placed on conclusions drawn from Japanese tradition.

Nevertheless, there are some very curious coincidences between the Japanese stories and facts of observation. For in the strange, fantastic Japanese mythology we read of a race of "hairy savages" who were subdued by the

TYPICAL AINO.

early Emperors as they extended their sway over the east and north. The "hairy savages" were undoubtedly the Ainos, who certainly did formerly occupy the country. We also read of a race of "cave dwellers," or "dwarfs," who lived in burrows under ground. Is it possible that these may have been the ancestors of the people who dug the pits in Yezo? The question is not to be easily answered. The existence of a people who lived in such underground burrows is very clearly expressed in Japanese tradition. If we deny that such people lived, we must account for the very circumstantial stories of how they were found and subdued; as, for example, when the first Mikado in his progress to Yamato invited the 80 "earth-spiders," as they were called, to a banquet, and at a signal his followers fell upon them with swords and killed every one.

Moreover, a Japanese writer has recently described what seems to be the remains of a pit-dwelling still in existence at Shonai, on the west coast of the main island. There is another curious fact which may have some bearing here. The shell-heaps of Japan yield vessels of rude pottery different in form and in their more elaborate decorative designs from the ancient pottery of the Japanese. Precisely similar pottery is found about the pits in Yezo, and it has all received the distinctive designation of Aino pottery, on the assumption that it was made by the Ainos.

But at the present time the Ainos do not make pottery of any kind. Who, then, made the pottery of the shell mounds and pits? It is impossible to answer this question now. It seems to me that if we can only discover the identity of those ancient and artistic potters, we will have a clew to a vanished nation. I believe a mere fragment of this pottery could be recognized and identified at a glance wherever it might be found, so characteristic is its rude decoration.

The Kurile Islands stretch off in a long chain from the east to Yezo to the extremity of Kamschatka. It was in this chain of islands, as

A FAMILY GROUP.

already indicated, that the remnant of the pit-dwellers made their home. The islands formerly belonged to Russia, but they were ceded to Japan in 1875.

A few years ago Prof. John Milne visited some of the northernmost islands, where he found a peculiar people, few in numbers, of migratory habits, who lived in dwellings of earth built over pits in the ground.

When the Japanese Government came into possession of the islands, it was determined to remove these natives to the Island of Shikotan, where it was represented they would find a warmer climate, with abundance of fish and otter in the sea. But the people preferred their own islands, and would not move.

After three years a small steamer was sent to take them away, but they would not go on board until forced to do so by the officers, who destroyed their dwellings. Helpless, without homes or possessions, they submitted to their fate. About 100 persons were thus carried to Shikotan, including, no doubt, the entire native

POPULATION OF THE KURILES.

If the reader will turn to a map of the Japanese Empire he will find the Island Shikotan, an isolated spot on the great expanse of waters south of the Kurile chain. Its name is unfamiliar even to the traveler in northern Japan.

When I reached Nemuro, on the extreme east of Yezo, I found the island almost inaccessible. I planned to charter a Japanese fishing boat to take me over, but the sea was rough and the lowest charge was $30 for the trip, with absolute uncertainty as to the duration of the voyage, which might be a day or a week. While these negotiations were in progress, it was learned that a small steamer would sail for Yeterof in a few days and stop for a few hours at Shikotan.

At 3:45 a. m. on the 9th of August, 1888, the Yoshino-Maru left her anchorage in Nemuro harbor with her cargo of salt for the fisheries, and two foreign gentlemen, beside myself, who had also resolved to brave the dangers of the North Sea and fogs.

I was on deck before sunrise, but already we were tossing on the billows. The terraced coast of Yezo stretched away to the south as far as the eye could reach in the morning haze. Toward the north the volcanic range of the Menashi Peninsula rose, capped with gleaming snow.

At 8:30 we were abreast of Kunashiri, where Mount Chia-chia towers high as a regular volcanic cone, sloping in a graceful concave sweep to the sea, with Yeterof in the distance and Shikotan on the starboard bow. At noon we entered the harbor through a narrow passage between high vertical cliffs of gray and bluish sandstone, which suddenly opened into a beautiful, quiet bay, a lovely green valley coming down to a sandy beach before us, and rugged mountains beyond and on every hand, mostly bare, but some of them with a stunted growth of trees.

The thatched roofs of the village are scarcely visible from the steamer's deck, but on the western shore a well-built house, occupied by the Japanese officials, gives evidence of life on the island. But for a long time not a man is seen.

Finally a ponderous boat is seen to leave the shore and come out to us, slowly propelled by a couple of sturdy, silent oarsmen. They take us ashore, carrying us on their backs up the shelving beach to dry land. After paying our respects to the Japanese officers we skirt the shore of the bay, and in a few minutes arrive at the village. A general view of the village and the bare hills beyond is presented.

I shall not soon forget the experience of making this photograph. It was taken from the steep hillside where the weeds and underbrush were almost impenetrable, where it was very difficult to get foothold for myself or for my large camera, and where the intense heat of the sun and the insects buzzing around nearly caused me to succumb.

The village consists of 18 houses on a single street, 10 on one side and eight on the other. The houses generally consist of two parts, a thatched dwelling, not unlike the Aino houses, in which the family lives during warm weather, and a back Winter dwelling consisting of a mound of earth raised over a

SHALLOW PIT.

These two dwellings are usually connected by a narrow covered passage, which runs parallel with the back of the thatched house, so that in passing from one house to the other one crosses the passage instead of traversing its length.

This passage has a door at one end, giving direct access to the earth dwelling from without. The illustration shows one of the largest houses in the village, having the back passage extended to one side much beyond the house, and a second door at the near end. This is unusual, but the long passageway is now required because there are two earth dwellings at the back, not high enough to be visible in this picture, but one of them can be seen in the general view of the village.

The thatched house usually consists of two parts; a low, narrow room in front, which is used only for storage, leading to the main

A MODERN HOUSE IN SHIKOTAN.

room, in which the family cooks, eats, and sleeps. This living-room is nearly square, usually with a board floor raised a few inches above the ground.

About the middle is a large, rectangular opening filled with ashes, on which some pieces of green wood fitfully burn and smolder. The smoke escapes as best it may, either through an opening just beneath the ridge-pole in the front end of the house, or, in the better class of houses, through a wooden chimney in the roof. In any case, the air is close and irritating to the eyes. The rafters, cross-beams, and the whole upper part of the interior is thickly covered with an oily soot, deposited as a black and shiny varnish, resembling black Japan.

There are usually two small windows, one on each side, which only dimly light the black interior. On one side are sleeping-bunks, with high sideboards.

A most indescribable collection of articles may be found in one of these houses. From the lower cross-beams and around the sides hang articles of clothing, smoked and dirty, for wash-day is unknown; gloves of fur with the fur inside;

BOOTS OF FISH-SKIN;

rude baskets of bark; skins of animals; thongs of hide; various kinds of dried roots or vegetable-tops for food; smoked fish, etc.

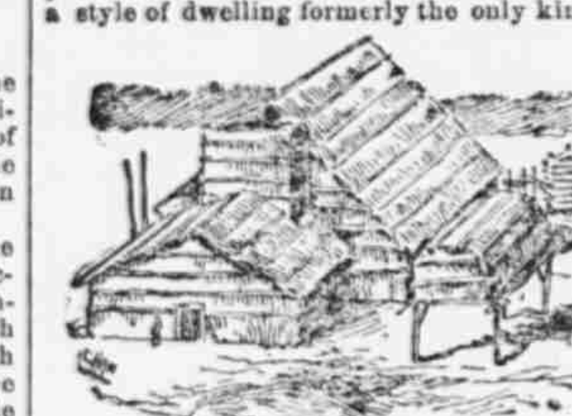
The cooking is done over the smoky fire. One or two rude hooks, made by cutting branches of trees so as to leave a short stub projecting upward at the lower end, are suspended over the fireplace from above. Upon one of these a Japanese iron pot with a bale is hung, and on the other an iron water-kettle.

The food is of very poor quality. The Japanese Government furnishes a small quantity of rice, which the people supplement with fish, bulbous roots, and tops of vegetables. All these articles are boiled in the pot together. The pot stands around between meals, covered outside with soot and inside with accumulations of the past, there being no obvious reason for supposing that it is ever emptied or washed.

The earth houses or pit dwellings are like rounded mounds overgrown with weeds and moss. Two such isolated mounds are represented. These are probably the dwellings originally occupied by the people, the thatched houses being of recent adoption.

The connection of the earth dwellings with the latter is shown in the view along the backs of the houses. This picture also shows the extent to which agriculture is developed in the village. The interior is gloomy and damp. A rude wood framework serves to support the structure. On one or two sides are sleeping-bunks, in one corner a fireplace of piled stones with a flue leading to the surface outside. A small glazed window admits light. The floor, depressed about 12 inches below the outside level, is the black, bare earth.

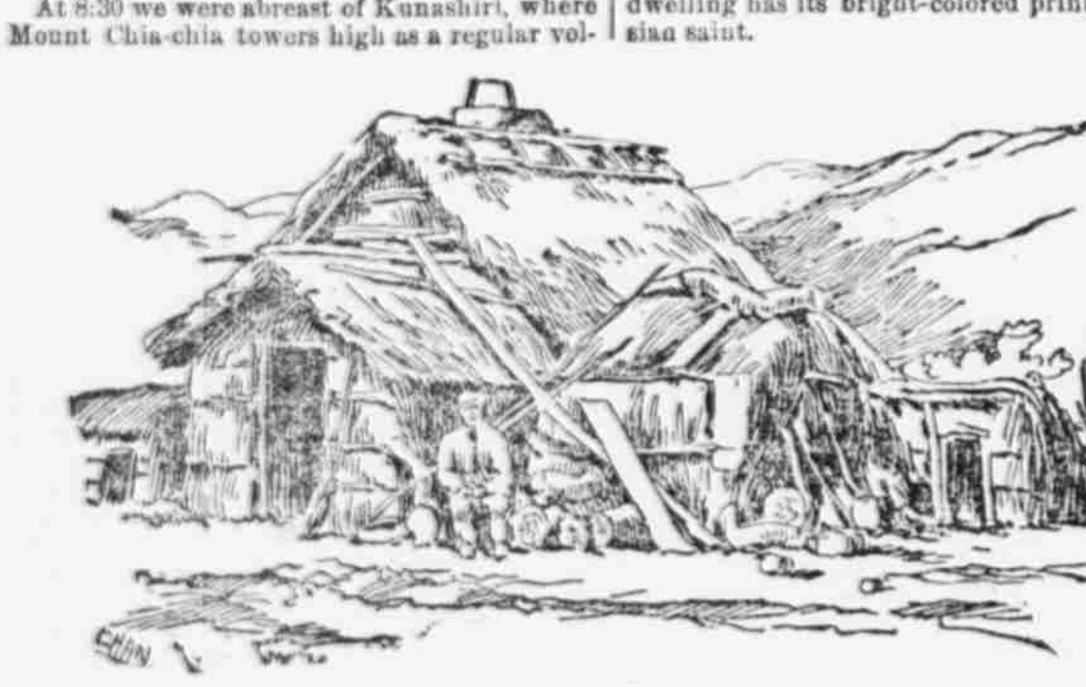
It is probable, judging from the size of the pits in Yezo, that the dwellings formerly occupied by this people were deeper and larger, the present structures perhaps being survivals of a style of dwelling formerly the only kind in



AN AINO HOUSE.

use, but now made from habit; for certainly the earth houses are not required along with the well-built thatched houses the people now possess.

The people who built these dwellings have not been studied, and they are so little known and so difficult to reach that my very few photographs are likely to be the only ones to record their appearance and the strange dwellings they occupy. They dress like Europeans, showing some contact with the great Western World, but it would be strange if they had not borrowed so much from the Russians of Kamschatka, whose language they speak, and whose religion they seem to have adopted, for every dwelling has its bright-colored print of a Russian saint.



A SHIKOTAN DWELLING.

They are not Ainos, but what their ethnic relations are is unknown. Their condition is most pitiful. Taken from their own islands, where they had abundance of fish, and skins for clothing, they have suffered for want of both, and disease has made fearful ravages among them.

In five years they have been reduced one-third in number, chiefly by consumption, the effects of which are plainly seen among them. They number now about 70 souls, and this small remnant of an unknown people will soon have passed away.

What connection had these people with the predecessors of the Ainos? Did those ancient pit-dwellers disappear across the Tsugaru Strait and leave their last living descendants in the Smelenkur of Saghalin, who also build earth houses, but of a different kind? Or did they, as I have supposed, make their way in the other direction, leaving their landmarks in the pits of Yeterof?

These questions must be answered soon, or even the slender links now existing between the past and the present will be broken beyond repair.

It was near five o'clock as we raised anchor and laid a course for Yeterof. The rocky bluffs rose clear and sharp behind us, but soon a faint line of mist gathered and hung as a fleecy cloud midway between the base and top. In that northern region the effects of clouds and mist are strange and weird. They change with every passing moment, now settling down dense and impenetrable, now lifting and breaking away in invisible vapor, revealing, as by a magic charm, the shore and mountains and deep azure sky.

A long, narrow band of snow-white cloud settles slowly down and rests upon the water near the shore. Above it the air is clear for a space, then another band of mist, a little higher up another and still another, three or four successive lines of cloud, the shore and mountains seen between them, and the high peaks clear in the upper air.

One never wearies with watching the ceaseless play of vapor among the rugged mountain sides and summits of those bleak shores. Before us, on the left, apparently quite near, rose the fine cone of Chia-chia above a brilliant sunlit cloud; on the right the mountains of Yeterof, with softened outlines in the hazy atmosphere of distance, stretched farther and farther, peak beyond peak, into the blue and purple and cloud along the horizon.

Then followed the rich glow of the sunset, and the pale, cold light through which the evening stars begin to gleam. No need for a lookout for passing vessels in this lonely sea. We sailed all night and reached our port, Shiana, at seven o'clock, and the next day explored the pits near Bettobu, without any discoveries of value, after which our little steamer carried us back to Nemuro, well contented with the results of our voyage.

THEIR OPINION.

Compliments for the Paper from All Sections of the Country.

I am nearly 82 years old, and I have been a reader of your columns for many years—ever since I first knew of your existence, which was soon after drawing your first breath. I will say it should be in every ex-soldier's house, on every old soldier's desk, and read by every comrade. There is more good solid reading-matter in it than any other paper that ever went to press, the old Horace Greely *Tribune* not excepted—solid matter, aside from war news, in that it goes to the topmast. It excels all, all together, indeed. It is the eagle on the mountain, the gem of the ocean, the joy of the old soldier.—D. D. HOGLE, Nashville, Tenn.

You can count on me as a subscriber just as long as you keep on hitting those who need hitting. It is the soldier's champion paper sure.—AARON BAER, Luverne, Minn.

I cannot do without the good old paper.—W. H. EDWARDS, Davis, Ark.

I have been a reader of your valuable paper for years, and shall continue on as long as you defend the old soldiers and the Stars and Stripes.—IRWIN THOMAS, Centre, O.

Inclosed please find $1 initiation fee, and address of a new recruit as a subscriber to the soldier's true champion paper.—ANDREW HARKEY, Atkins, Ark.

GLEANINGS.

—As near as can be found out the Louisiana Lottery Company receives from $40,000,000 to $50,000,000 a year, and pays back about $20,000,000 a year in prizes. This gives some idea of the enormous profits of the business.

—Harvard archæologists are now making every effort in Honduras to obtain intelligent clews of the history of what is supposed to have been a race of people as ancient as the Egyptians. The pyramids found there, combined with the style of hewing stone, erection of buildings, etc., would indicate that a race of enlightened people were there centuries ago, of whom no other records exist.

—The immense salt deposit on Carmen Island, Gulf of California, is being developed by a company which recently bought it for $500,000. The output is about 300 tons daily. Much of it will be sent to Mazatlan, to be used in the mines of Sinaloa for the reduction of refractory ores mined in that district.

—The buildings of the World's Fair will contain 29 acres of glass.

—American looms are being extensively used in England.

—Owing to its extensive use in electric appliances the price of platinum has advanced fully 100 per cent.

SCIENCE CHAT.

—M. Lubin, a distinguished French chemist, claims that nitrate of strychnia administered hypodermically in minute doses is an infallible cure for love of liquor. After 10 days of this treatment chronic alcoholists acquire such a loathing for stimulants that even a sniff of their once favorite beverage causes nausea and headaches.

A Very Short Story.
[*The Epoch.*]

Totling—Here's a story called "The Politician's Conscience."

Dimling—Short story, isn't it.

HEALTH HINTS

For Old and Young.

BY FELIX L. OSWALD, M. D.

CHAPTER CXXX.

WINTER MISTAKES.

There is a forecastle story about a discontented sailor who jumped overboard and swam to the coast of Terra del Fuego, because a "land of fire" seemed to give promise of pleasant winter quarters.

The name of "fire-water" ("aguardiente," "ardent" spirits, etc.), has apparently often led to equally serious mistakes. Alcohol, we are gravely told, even by such otherwise first-class authorities as the chemist Liebig, is a concentrated food and heat-producer, rather superfluous in the tropics, but in the higher latitudes occasionally a useful substitute for ordinary nourishment. The instinctive temperance of southern nations, and the stimulant thirst of most northlanders, were explained in that way; and yet the indubitable truth is, that distilled liquors, as generators of animal warmth, have no value whatever. We can burn alcohol in a spirit-lamp, but in aid of the heat-producing organs of our own body we might as well swallow turpentine or inhale a few cubic feet of lamp-gas.

The plan of drinking cup after cup of scalding-hot coffee is not very much wiser, from a physiological point of view. For a few moments the superheated beverage does produce a feeling of warmth, but its effect for that purpose is only a transient one, not to mention the fact that the habitual use of boiling-hot drinks is sure to injure the delicate tissue of the stomach, and is so contrary to the promptings of instinct that a famished wolf (as proved by an actual experiment) will refuse to touch a potful of steaming-hot milk.

The alleged instinctive alcohol thirst of northern nations, as stated in a former chapter, can be explained by the fact that frost is an antidote, and that in the latitude of Halifax the evil effects of intemperance are not apt to be as immediately visible as in Havana. Sooner or later those effects will, however, manifest themselves in any climate; and, on a cold Winter morning, a piece of bread and butter, chewed thoroughly enough to be quickly assimilated, will prove a far better heat-producer than a drink of the finest French high wines.

The amount of artificial warmth needed in frigid latitudes depends largely upon individual habits. On the frosty southwest coast of Chiloe the naturalist Darwin was shivering over a fire of beech logs, the natives—even women with children at their breasts—were standing about with no apparent sign of discomfort, exposing their half-naked bodies to the blasts of a raging snowstorm. It might even be questioned if the habit making artificial cover a necessity is, on the whole, a hygienic advantage; but it is certain that less mischief is done by an excess of clothing than by the injudicious methods of its use. Our beds are our night clothes, and a few minutes experiment would suffice to convince a worshiper of fashion that in cold weather he could improve his comfort by reserving the larger half of his bedclothes for his feet, legs and body up to the shoulders, leaving his neck and head unprotected. The attempt to reverse that arrangement would promptly wake him from the soundest sleep; yet the behests of fashion enforce that very folly, and on the snow-covered streets of our Northern cities one may see hundreds of youngsters in knee-breeches and thin shoes, thinner stockings, and no gloves at all, but wearing heavy fur caps and neck shawls in addition to an overcoat with a heavy-lined hood.

Such shawls are often intended to prevent the wearer from catching "cold." Their direct effect, however, is to stimulate perspiration, and thus to increase the risk of the very evil they were supposed to obviate. After the mischief has been done—i. e., after a catarrh has fastened upon the respiratory organs; it is likewise a bad plan to load the patient's bed with extra pillows and quilts. By that mistake the lungs seem to be turned into a hotbed favoring the development of disease germs—a microbe hatchery apt to aggravate an ordintry cold into a much more serious disorder.

Family beds, where half a dozen youngsters have to pass the night the best way they can, have by no means gone quite out of fashion, but even in well-ordered households it is not a rare thing to make children sleep pair-wise in cold weather, especially in times of contagious catarrhs, when the risk of taking cold has to be specially guarded against. In one sense of the word the expedient certainly answers its purpose. A mutual benefit aggregation of animal warmth is the readiest frost cure, and was probably the chief hope of survival of the nations who first exchanged the Eden of the Tropics for the wilderness of the higher latitudes. But in another sense, the remedy is more apt to increase than to prevent the risk of the evil. A human being absolutely free from the taint of pulmonary diseases can nowadays rarely be found outside of a cradle. Prof. Leo Karsen, of Frankfort, who made a specialty of infantile disorders, managed to dissect (in parish hospitals, etc.) the bodies of nearly 300 children under 15 years of age. Of that number 120 showed more or less unequivocal signs of incipient tuberculosis, some 55 had lungs with traces of severe disorders other than consumption, in about 40 the respiratory organs were slightly congested, and only 80—mostly infants—had apparently healthy lungs. In our land of forests and airy tablelands things are not quite so bad yet; but the atmosphere of our cities is saturated with the germs of lung diseases, and the danger of contagion is doubled by an arrangement obliging one person to inhale the breath of another.

Only a few weeks ago I received a letter from a friend who had crossed the Continent in Midwinter, and had taken every possible precaution against damaging his lungs in the stuffy atmosphere of the through trains. By bribes and otherwise he contrived to get a seat all by himself in some corner where a window could be partly opened, unobserved, or in a baggage-car, where he had a cagefull of birds that gave him a pretext for frequent visits. If the car got overcrowded and direct ventilation seemed hopeless, he often stepped out upon the platform and refreshed his lungs with a dose of iced oxygen. He took every advantage of his sleeping-car ticket, and thus contrived to weather all perils to a point within half a day's ride from his destination. But fate may defeat all precautions, and at the point named my friend was obliged to use a transfer omnibus to another depot. Just as the driver was ready to start he was hailed by another batch of customers, and a woman with a swarm of coughing and sneezing children was crowded in at the risk of overtaxing even the standing room of the old ramshackle wagon. For some reason or other—possibly in the hope of picking up an additional passenger—the Jehu drove provokingly slow, and when my correspondent finally clambered out of the lung-poison box he felt that his doom was settled. One of his coughing fellow-passengers had stood directly in front of him, face almost touching face, and the germs thus transmitted developed a catarrh that "nearly turned his lungs inside out," as he expresses it.

In sharing through a long Winter night the bed of a person whose lungs have already caught the contagion, that result is all but inevitable. Nor is the risk of infection confined to lung diseases. All sorts of physical, not to mention certain moral, disorders may be communicated in the same way, and from a sanitary point of view a pallet on the floor with a bolster pillow and a couple of old quilts is decidedly preferable to a temporary partnership bed.

Rather Large Stones.
[*Popular Science Monthly.*]

Accepting reported measurements, the largest erratic block, or bowlder, as yet recognized in the United States, and probably in the world, is in the town of Madison, N. H., and according to Prof. Crosby, of the Boston Institute of Technology, has the following maximum dimensions: Length, 83 feet; width, in excess of 45 feet; hight, 30 to 37 feet; contents, 90,000 cubic feet; and probable weight, 15,300,000 pounds, or 7,650 tons.

Next to this in size is undoubtedly the great rock in the town of Montville, Conn., generally known by its Indian designation as "Sheegan," and also as "Mohegan." In the opinion of some this rock is an isolated granite protuberence, and not a true "erratic" or bowlder, but recent examinations have seemed to completely negative the first supposition. Its approximate maximum dimensions are: Length, 75 feet; width, 58 feet; hight, 60 feet; contents, 70,000 cubic feet; weight, 6,000 tons. If allowance be made for an immense fragment which has fallen from its northeast side, the dimensions and cubic contents of "Sheegan" would approximate more closely to those of the Madison bowlder.

MYSTERY.

[Choice original contributions and solutions solicited from every reader of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. Write puzzles on one side of paper, apart from other communications. Address everything pertaining to this department to "Puzzle Editor," THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.]

NOTICE: Our authorities for definitions given in word forms are Webster's International Dictionary, Lippincott's Gazetteer, and Phillips's Dictionary of Biographical Reference. All words found outside of these books must be properly tagged. An asterisk (*) signifies that the word defined is found in the Unabridged Dictionary and not in the International.

"Quiet, calm deliberation
Disentangles every knot."
—THE GONDOLIERS.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN NO. 24.

215—Belamy: Unraveling thy perite enigma respecting nubile Quakerish damsels donts my autarchy, dernly nubilates my evanid incony harns, ergo rath jades my depilous custard.

217—
K E R S H A W
E Y E W A S H
R E V E R S E
S W E A R E R
H A R R A G E
A S S E G A I
W H E R E I N

218—
M A T R E S S
A I R E N T I
T R E N D E L
R E N I E R I
E N D E M I C
S T E R I L E
S I L I C E A

216—Re-very. 219—Were-gild.

220—
L
B A T
D O S E L
B O T T L E S
L A S T H E N E S
T E L E C I D E S
L E N I T I V E S
S E D I M E N T S
S E V E N T I E S
S E N T E N C E S
S T I N K T R A P
S E C T A R Y
S E R R Y
S A Y
P

221—1. Pat-riot. 2. Eye-brow.

222—
C U S T O M
U N C A P E
S C O R E R
T A R A R E
O P E R A G L A S S
M E R E G O U T T E
L U S T R E
A T T A I N
S T R I K E
S E E N E R

223—NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

224—
J
T A F
T A C I T
T I N K E R S
T A N T A L A T E
J A C K A N D J I L L
F I E L D L E N S
T R A J E C T
S T I N T
E L S
L

225—Know.

226—
C
H O
P A N
D I S S E R V I N G
I N T E R V E N E
S T E A M E R S
S E A R E S T
P E R M E A T E
H A R V E S T E R
C O N V E R T E R S
I N S
N E
G

Authors of the above: D. Bee, Hattie Heath, Simon Ease, Majolica, Beech Nut, J. C. M., Nyas, Iron Mask, M. C. S., Damon, H. S. Nut and R. O. Chester, in numerical order.

SOLVERS.

Complete Lists: Jo Mullins, K. T. Did, Damon, Zenith, Horizon, Ben Trovato, G. Race, Alumnus, Guidon.—9.

Incomplete Lists: Dame D., Dorothy Doolittle, Tunste, Alexander, Goldey, H. S. Nut, Jack O'Lantern, T. Hinker, Rex Ford, Pat Riot, Lucrezius Borgers, Mack, Nyas, E. Lucy Date, Rokeby, B. Wilder, Aspiro, Gogebic, Junius, Eglantine, B. Ver, Phonog, Nemo, Aidyl, J. C. M., Rosebug, Cricket, W. D. J., Will U. Smyle, R. O. Chester, Miss Chief, T. O'Boggan, M. C. S., Ellsworth, Mrs. G. P. C., Arty Fishel.—36. Total, 45.

NEW PUZZLES.—NO. 30.

NO. 280—CHARADE.

In the cave of despair firmly jail me,
Where TOTALS are monodies trying;
With scourges of mournfulness flail me,
FIRST scorpions' stings scarifying,
Because—here's the ground underlying,
But low, since the arras has ears—
Euphrosyne's mirth I'm decrying,
For laughter's the sister of tears.

In panoply dolorous mail me,
My courage to weep fortifying;
Sad dirges and coronachs wail me,
My lachrymatory supplying,
Or sing me a threnode outvying
The pathos of tragedy's biers,
Thalia e'en with me is crying,
For laughter's the sister of tears.

I'd rather the megrims should ail me,
Be, Niobe-like, petrifying,
That thorns in the side should impale me
Forever, than watch Momus flying,
Than smile with this thought qualifying
The good of my happiest years—
Aye after the laugh will come sighing,
For laughter's the sister of tears.

L'ENVOI.

I'd ne'er be my dimples denying
If surcease of LAST came not after;
Then kin will wet eyelids be drying,
For tears are the sisters of laughter.
—DOROTHY DOOLITTLE, Jersey City, N. J.

NOS. 281-2—SQUARES.

1. Decennium. 2. A white, crystaline, bitter alkaloid. 3. The group of tape worms.* 4. Provided with antlers. 5. A mode of scenic representation. 6. Peculiar to a district. 7. The European sea-perch. —SIMON EASE, Newark, N. J.

1. Shuts up. 2. Variable. 3. A woman who gives direction to the style of dress. 4. One who views as one. 5. Amusing. 6. P. O., Dallas Co., Tex. 7. A member of an Arab princely family.
—R. O. CHESTER, Washington, D. C.

NOS. 283-4—CHARADES.

The FIRST will swim and plunge and dive—
He is very seldom caught alive.

When the sailor comes with TWO and ONE
He's sure he has a good work done.

COMPLETE a plant is—lovely, rare—
With flowers fragrant, bright and fair.
—G. RACE, Washington, D. C.

There once was an urchin and he was a FIRST,
And he SECONDED over the land.
Not one word he told us we ever could trust
And he heeded no word of command.

I pondered, and tried the sweet magic of love
To waken the flowers in his heart;
So I talked to him kindly, his feelings to move,
And I think he WHOLED under my art.
—AIDYL, Waite, Me.

NO. 285—CONUNDRUM CLUB HEXAGON.

ACROSS: 1. About. 2. The wild buffalo of India. 3. Rose in thoughts. 4. Conclusive. 5. Moved by inherent power. 6. A chætopod. 7. A beverage made of wine, water, etc. 8. An island of France. 9. A letter.

DOWN: 1. A green spot in a waste. 2. Parts. 3. A male name. 4. Following. 5. Ability. 6. The namaycush. 7. Splits. 8. Not. 9. Vanished.
—ARCANUS, Iowa City, Iowa.

NO. 286—TRANSPOSITION.

As we passed by, her love-lit eye
My fondest wish would gratify;
Oh! what soft cheer would then appear
And make me feel that bliss was near,
On FIRST my hopes to gratify.

Alas! I sigh, these fond hopes die;
On looks no longer I rely;
Once soft were they, but now austere
As we pass by.

You ask me why? Then I reply,
The charms of wealth her wants supply;
Her NEXT, 't is clear, is insincere,
Her former smile is now a sneer,
We do not speak, but look awry
As we pass by.
—NYAS, Washington, D. C.

NOS. 287-8—DIAMONDS.

1. A letter. 2. A convulsive sigh. 3. Lowers. 4. Unreasonably devoted to a party. 5. A centaur. 6. A genus of marsupials. 7. Promoting. 8. Danger of injury by the sea. 9. To hear. 10. An age. 11. A letter.

1. A letter. 2. A genus of ruminant quadrupeds. 3. Miseries. (Obs.) 4. Second lendings. 5. The huso. 6. A genus of marsupials. 7. The dividing line. (Century.) 8. Breathed with a rough, hoarse voice. 9. Demanding. 10. The parson-bird. 11. A letter. —DAMON, Washington, D. C.

NO. 289.—TRANSPOSITION.
(*To a Pawnbroker.*)

O thou, whose shop holds various things,
From last year's ONES to diamond rings,
Who with the TWO of golden balls,
THREE the unwary to thy halls,
To find, as they await thy nod,
Thou FOUR as with an iron rod—
Thou, "in the bivouac of life,"
If not "a hero in the strife,"
Assuredly must be the FIVE,
Who by thy comrades' needs dost thrive;
The SIX of all thy trade is plain—
Their loss is thy exceeding gain!
—M. C. S., Springfield, Ill.

☞ Answers and solvers will be given in six weeks.

PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

For the best batch of flats (charades, anagrams, etc.), a Trenton stem-winding watch. Next in merit, Cruise of the Montauk, 440 pages. Next, Beautiful Homes, 300 pages. To the senders of the three next best batches, suitable prizes will be given.

Contest open until March 5, and to subscribers only.

CHAT WITH CONTRIBUTORS.

Acceptable contributions have been received from Dorothy Doolittle, Maude, Nyas, Guidon, Washingtonian, Maud Lynn and R. O. Chester. ——We desire to call especial attention to the prizes offered above, particularly the watch. This is a first-class, warranted timekeeper, and is well worth trying for. The books offered are handsome ones, and not of any cheap edition. We shall expect a spirited competition among the flattists, and in the course of a few weeks will announce another set of prizes for forms, the first prize being the same as in the above. Any forms sent after this date and prior to the announcement of the prizes will be entered for said prizes, if so desired.——The *Study* will hereafter be issued bi-monthly, alternating with the *Key*.——Through inadvertence the sixth definition in Pallas's half-square, published last week, was wrongly given. The word should have been defined as "East Indian soluble gums. (Century.)"——Our thanks are due Arty Fishel for a batch of puzzles, culled from those he had on hand at the time of the suspension of Mysteries.——In the last number of Perplexities H. S. Nut makes bold the assertion that his department contained the first report of the late E. P. L. Convention, basing his statement upon the fact (?) that the Journal is published one day ahead of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. We must correct him on this score. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is published on Tuesday morning, and as the Journal of Wednesday contains the account of events occurring on Tuesday, our friend must admit that he is in error.——Sesom has again avowed his intention of starting a puzzle column. A change of management prevented him from making terms with the *Mercury*, but now *Twice a Month*, of New York City, will contain his department, and he desires cons. from all. Address Moses H. Grossman, World Building, N. Y. City.——K. T. Did has just recovered from a severe attack of La Grippe.——Sphynx, introduced to the Dom by H. S. Nut, appears to reside in the same house with our Boston friend, Sphinx.——McGinty, of Harmony, Pa., propounds this problem: "A man having a pair of scales, and no weights, has a piece of iron weighing 40 pounds. How can this piece of iron be cut into four pieces so as to weigh from 1 to 40 pounds accurately?" To those who are mathematically inclined, this will prove an interesting study. For the first correct answer received we will send 10 postal cards.

1-21-92. EUGENE.

A Comrade's Wish.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I wish you all a Happy New Year. Long may you continue to be second to none of all the papers printed in the United States. May all old soldiers that are left be added to your subscription list, is the wish of—O. E. BARTLIT, Sergeant, Troop G, 8th U. S. Cav., York, Neb.

A Short Duel.
[*Judge.*]

Dimling—The duel has had its hous.
Tatling—That's too long.
Dimling—What do you mean?
Tatling—A duel requires only two seconds.

A Cautious Youth.
[*Chicago Tribune.*]

Mamma—Willie, what are you doing with that thermometer?

Willie—I'm bringing it into the house. It's too cold a place for it out here.